

THE PLACE AND POWER OF AN ENLIGHTENED
PUBLIC OPINION.

On Thursday last a large number of the educated men of New England were assembled at Cambridge to take part in the closing exercises of "commencement week," the principal attraction of that day being the Festival celebrated under the auspices of the Association of the Alumni of Harvard College. Dr. Walker was the orator of the day, and the choice could not have fallen on one better qualified to address the cultivated audience brought together by the interesting occasion. The Boston Daily Advertiser of Friday last, in publishing the discourse of Dr. Walker, accompanies it with the following appreciation:

We need, therefore, make no apology for the space we give to the following citations from this address, which inculcates duties of the first importance at this time.

life and practical problems assumed of it or afraid of it. But the "progressive" press, on the other hand, has been so busy making a case for the "progressive" movement, but this makes a class of highly educated men only so much the more necessary, to see to it that these ideas are true as well as great, and that they are rightly understood and rightly applied. There have been times when party spirit has been stronger than common sense, but now, at least, when these questions at issue were so profound, so radical, so far reaching. And these questions are not reserved, as was once the practice, for the schools; the discussion is not locked up in the dead language, known only to a privileged few. It is now a part of the common life. We are told that we can hardly open a *magazine* or a *newspaper*, which does not bring into notice some of these great ideas, some novel and startling doctrine which is thought by the "progressive" press to be the only way to the better government, and even of human nature itself. Alarmists will tell you that the world is coming to an end. What then, are we to do? Even the great leaders of thought on the progressive side are beginning to betray uneasiness. They are beginning to ask themselves, "What is the end in modern society? But if this is so, what, I ask again, are we to do?"

After answering the objection that error, and sometimes most pernicious error, often finds its votaries among men of education, and that such men, even the best of them, are not of one mind even on questions generally accounted most vital and fundamental, Dr. Walker proceeds as follows :

"No where is this regulative principle more needed than among a people living under institutions like ours and in times like ours. To the question, then, What can we, as educated men, do for our country? I reply, Much, every way, with this to recommend it, that what we do will be chiefly felt, not in practical life, where the nation is the strongest, but in intellectual life, where it is unquestionably the weakest

tributes a method to secure or restore a sound and healthy state of public opinion. And this is precisely what is most needed now and here. The universal spread of a general indifference to the public good, the general neglect of the public mind, which, if it is not backed and regulated by their changes, will lead to as much harm as good. The ubiquity of the schoolmaster, if he has not turned us all into *reasonable* beings, has turned us all into *unreasonable* beings. People demand to know the *why* and the *wherefore* of things. They will not be satisfied with any instruction for which a satisfactory reason cannot be given, and is not given, seems struck with irremediable *impotence*. There is no real foundation for the complaint that people are *unreasonable*, while they refuse to follow good authority, are ready to follow bad. They are not misled by authority, good or bad, but by common acceptance of that term; but by *epithetical* reasons, by *false* or *garbled* statements, by *passionate* and *one-sided* declamation—the whole often resulting in a *sin*

make his own party what it ought to be; that is to say, to bring it under the influence of his best minds, of the highest and soundest statesmanship it can boast. Thus, though not a member of the party, I have no objection to its being together; for they would act in the same general spirit, and for the same general result—namely, to make all parties more loyal and more patriotic.

And again I say selfishness itself dictates this course. Without going at all into the question whose fault it is, or whether it is the fault of the party, or of the people, or of the present war has not been carried on in a way to unite all parties at the North. What is the use of trying to shut our eyes on the fact that a divided people are struggling to preserve the life of a great nation? To exhort that either party, with all its passions and antipathies, to sacrifice its interests to the interests of the nation to the other is simply absurd. Unless, therefore, in this extremity, the leading minds in the community are willing to work day and night, and work together, each one to keep his own party from extreme or from factious courses, and to keep the people in their best hope, under God, I will not, say our country, is true.

Be this, however, as it may, it does not alter the facts in the case. We shall still be pressed with the question, "Is it not true that every republic, including our own, has manifested a growing distrust of the highest ability candidates for the highest places?" I suppose we must answer "Yes." But, for the important questions, "In the first place, it is not the people who desert their leaders; in the second place, it is not the people who desert their great leaders, but the people practiced upon and cajoled by the politicians. And in the second place, this desertion, however brought about, is often more apparent than real. Much of what is said about the triumph of *stability* over *merit* relates exclusively to the case of the United States, and is hardly applicable to all, the people know the difference between them and show it in a thousand ways. In office, or out of office, a great statesman is a great power in the State."

"What, then, is the conclusion to which we are brought? Not, surely, that we should have dreamers, or visionaries, or mere theorists to rule over us. If there is to be a practical government, we must have men of practical sense, and administered by men of practical experience."

HOW THEY TREAT A RIOT IN BOSTON.
The disturbance in Boston on Monday night and Tuesday appears to have been an inconsiderable affair, and was promptly suppressed by the authorities. The military went about their work in sober earnest, and poured in re-

On Wednesday night the military preparations were most ample and efficient. Upwards of two thousand troops, comprising all arms of the service—artillery, cavalry, and infantry—all well armed, were on duty during the night, stationed at convenient localities for efficient action if their services had been required.

CONSOLIDATION OF DEPARTMENTS.

An order issued from the War Department on the 15th instant directs that the military departments of Virginia and North Carolina be united into one, and Major Gen. G. Foster is assigned to the command. Major Gen. Dix is thus relieved from duty on the Peninsula and has returned to New York, where he is to assume command of the Eastern Department.

the British House of Commons, on Tuesday, the 39

MR. MONTAGUE moved as an amendment that the Senate earnestly desire that the impartial neutrality should be maintained by her Majesty's Government in the present unhappy contest in the States of North America. He yielded to no man in sympathy and admiration for the South, but they were now on the point of losing this independence, and they ought not to be interfered with. He also objected to any intervention on the ground that it was not likely to be acceptable to either side, whilst it could lead to no good, might involve difficulties.

and in one way or another country was duty in relation to France, but in the North the spirit of patriotic resistance which there had been the great secret of Southern success against the Northern inferiority, and it would check any reaction which might be going on in the minds of American citizens in support of the Government in resisting the motion.

M. R. CECIL supported the motion, which, if carried in his opinion, have a great moral effect upon the conduct of the war. It was in vain to suppose the North would conquer the South, and therefore the continuance of the war was a gigantic crime. The English Government was the sole obstacle to the recognition of the South.

Dr. GREY said he would now notice the extraordinary conduct of Mr. Roebuck in constituting himself ambassador to the Emperor of the French, although such conduct was a violation of all confidence and official courtesy. He repeated the declarations of Earl Russell in the House of Commons, and expressed his inability to reconcile them with the statement of Mr. Roebuck. As to his personal knowledge of the views of the Emperor of the French, he said they varied largely with the information possessed by the British Government. He utterly denied that there was the slightest ground for the complaint that the communications of the Emperor had been submitted to the Federal Government; such a charge was unwarranted, and Mr. Roebuck must have misunderstood the Emperor, who has always expressed his satisfaction in the manner in which his views had been considered by the British Government.

THE QUESTION TO BE FURTHER DISCUSSED.
The House of Commons on Thursday, the 2d of
Mr. GREY, in reply to Mr. Roebuck, stated that the
ment would give up Monday, the 13th, unless any
of public importance should intervene, for the resu
n of the debate on the motion for the recognition
Southern States of America.

F. E. FORNESTER asked the under Secretary for Foreign Affairs if he could inform the House whether it was true that a proposition was made some time ago for a joint convention between the Federal and Confederate States of America of the English and French Governments.

MR. MAYNARD, after considerable interruption from Mr. McKim, denied the truth of statements made by Mr. McKim on the evening when he made his motion, and said that on November last no communication had been received from the Federal Government proposing mediation between the North and South. He also denied the fact of Mr. Roebuck's assertion on the authority, as Mr. McKim alleged, of the Emperor of the French, that instead of Lyons committed a breach of confidence by Mr. Seward a copy of a despatch addressed to the President by the Government of France relating to affairs of America.

A LETTER FROM MR. LINDSAY.

MRS. F. S. LINDSAY publishes a letter in the Times dated London, 10th inst., on the mission of himself and Mr. Fox to Paris, in which she says that "the mission is proceeding in Paris," and asserts that

AN EXPLANATION FROM PARIS.

The Paris *Moniteur* of the 5th instant contains the following explanation of the interview of Messrs. Roebuck and Lindsay with the Emperor Napoleon. It was telegraphed from Paris via London to Queenstown. The *Moniteur* says:

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OFFICIAL CORRESPONDENCE.

The latest English journals contain the correspondence relative to the seizure of the schooner Will-o'-the-Wisp by the United States ship Montgomery. The facts of the case, as detailed before the United States prize court, are already known. The court held that the capture was not warranted, but, owing to some suspicious circumstances, the court deemed that the captors should only pay their own expenses. Upon this Earl Russell requested Lord

ssatisfied with the decision, and

THE POLISH QUESTION.
The reply of Russia to the three Powers is still in abeyance, but it continues to be asserted at Berlin that it will be of a conciliatory and peaceful character. Le Patriote maintains that it is impossible to arrive by diplomacy at solution of the Polish question, and that diplomacy having done its part, it is now time that that of war should begin.

ANGLO-CONFEDERATE TRADE REPORT.

eston gives a general report of
at city down to the 3d ultim

AFFAIRS IN NORTH CAROLINA.

There were two arrivals at Fortress Monroe on Saturday from Newbern, North Carolina. One of the vessels brought Major General Foster and two of his staff, who relieving Gen. Dix, will command the lately consolidated

North Carolina.

The Raleigh (N. C.) State Journal alleges the discovery of secret political organizations whose purposes are most infamous and treasonable. It cautions "the patriotic people" of the State to be on the alert, and says: "No place and power merely are involved in this movement; it embraces the liberty and property and even the lives of the honest patriots of the Confederacy. Developments may shortly be made which will startle the most audacious."

A Newbern letter of the 15th instant refers in the following terms to the current and late reports of a reaction of public opinion in North Carolina in regard to the value and necessity of the Old Union:

Reports that the North Carolina rebels are making overtures of peace, under a new scheme of reconstruction of the Union, are still current; but they emanate not from the mountains. There is, in fact, no truth in them, although there is no doubt soon the necessities of the Southern Confederacy may require its submission to the disintegration of a part of its constellation of States. There is no harmony existing between the Jeff. Davis Government and that of Col. Vance, the Governor of North Carolina. The people in the State are wretchedly weak, pauperlike, and poverty stricken. It is to be regretted that, in the conception as they are weak in the execution of an enlarged idea. On the contrary, the Vance papers, such as that edited by Holden, in Raleigh, for instance, are the most intelligent and progressive. They appear in good condition, and as an example of the press sustained them, while the others have been supported only by the pap furnished them by a rotten and corrupt and a fast-idling remnant of a faction of an ephemeral

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ATTACK AND REPULSE AT FORT WAGNER

Correspondence of the New York Tribune.
MORRIS ISLAND, TWO MILES FROM FORT SUMTER
July 10, 1862

Folly Island is a strip of land extending from St. Peter to Lighthouse Inlet, a distance of seven miles, and from the ocean to Folly River one mile. The lower, or one-third of the island is covered with a thick growth of mangrove and pine trees; the upper one-third consists of low marshy swamp with the exception of the small point rising out upon Lighthouse Inlet, which is covered with thick stunted growth of live oak and palmettoes, springing out of sand hills made from the sea, ranging from ten to twenty feet in height, and to the quick perceptive faculties of Gen. Gilmore furnishing admirable positions for masked batteries.

At the time of Gen. Gilmore's arrival upon Folly Island the rebels were aware, from several little noisy reconnaissance they had made, that no guns had been mounted upon the island from the extreme northern point; that the island resembling an earthwork was at the southern side the swamp; and that the wooden instead of the iron columns of the fort were of such a nature as to be easily adopted, and naturally supposing that a new commander would adopt a different plan from the General he had superseded, the rebels commenced the almost daily practice of throwing a few shells over to Folly Island, intending thereby to be able to prevent the erection of batteries directly between the island and the mainland.

Gen. Gilmore did not in a single day neglect to send a gunboat, and during the day he sent every thing he could be induced to do, suppose that he was simply standing on the defensive. But if quiet, his men, and, idle by daylight, at night he worked with almost superhuman energy. The sand-hills at the northern point of Folly Island seemed with him. Hundreds of spades and pickaxes were nightly taken out, and used by the men of the rebels.

From Hilton Head, upon mounds and

forty-eight guns of the heaviest calibre—were erected within four hundred yards of the enemy's works without his having the slightest suspicion that any thing more formidable than light artillery was within seven miles of him. The earthworks erected, the guns in position, the ammunition all in hand, nothing was wanting but the execution of a few slight military combinations before the attack upon Morris Island should commence.

At the same time that Gen. Gillmore was erecting the

Every thing, so far as human foresight could discern, connected with the expedition had been successful. Artillery and infantry were all on hand, and deserters and prisoners almost daily arriving told us that nothing was known within the rebel lines of the movement.

Gen. Gilmore, to insure perfect success in capturing the powder batteries upon Morris Island, decided not to rely upon the strength of the works, he had himself erect

the batteries on Morris Island from our entire line of
 rorks on Folly Island. The first shot from a twenty-
 pounder Parrott dismounted the gun it had been trained
 upon the battery, and highly complimented the gunners
 for their accuracy. The rebels, entirely taken by
 surprise, sprang upon the top of the sand hills to see
 where the fire came from, but as gun after gun opened
 along the line soon dropped back, and were not again seen
 until they were prisoners within our lines.

[illegible]

gates of the fort, while the 7th Connecticut pushed and the abattis, waded through the ditch, took the southeastern bastion, bayoneted all who offered any resistance, and reached his first line all along the parapet facing the sea, and in five minutes more would have had possession of the whole fort if the 76th Pennsylvania and the 3rd Maine had supported him as gallantly as the 7th Connecticut did. One hundred and eighty men could not battle with the whole garrison of the fort, said to be seven hundred strong, together with grape and canister belching from howitzer, raking the ditches from every point of the compass.

The Seventy-sixth Pennsylvanians and the Ninth Maine, demoralized by the fire of grape and canister, fell back in confusion and rose again in a vain effort to rally. Finally all who witnessed the attack, are of the opinion that the fort would have been in our possession if these regiments had displayed one half of the persistence and gallantry of the Seventh Connecticut. As it is we have lost one hundred brave men in killed, wounded, and prisoners. We were killed and who were wounded in this bold assault were not listed and, therefore, not counted as a loss. With the exception of this assault, not a shot has been fired by the army.

The monitors, however, have been busy. A steady fire has been kept up nearly all day upon Fort Wagner and Cummings Point. Several attempts have been made to capture Fort Wagner, but thus far they have proved unsuccessful. The General "Glimps" has been ordered whether they reinforce these garrisons or not. So heavy a fire can be concentrated upon them that an additional number of troops would but furnish food for our constant exploding shell.

For the persecution of the negro there is divided re-

Presuming that steps will be taken for the relief of the colored people whose dwellings were robbed, and who were driven from their employment, I enclose my check for five hundred dollars, as a contribution to that object relying upon you to give it the proper direction.

Very truly, yours,
THURLOW WEED.

monstrance on the part of our State authorities, seconded warmly by Gen. Burnside and Gen. Boyle. In answer to this remonstrance, the President, we understand, signified that the enrollment of the free negroes in Kentucky was not intended as necessarily preliminary to the drafting and arming of them, but might be preliminary to their employment as simple laborers. In other words, the President intended

declared that he had not yet made up his mind to do more than enroll the negroes. For reasons obvious, to all Kentuckyans, the negroes are not to be enrolled in the State factory, and the remonstrance has been renewed by our State authorities in more explicit and more urgent terms. We have the utmost confidence that the remonstrance thus renewed will prove successful. It is clearly and manifestly clearly legal, and it is most rash and improper to attempt to enforce it; but it is clearly illegal. Free negroes are not citizens of the United States, and the President can find no authority in Kentucky to enroll them. The President is, therefore, in this point Gov. Robinson, the Chief Magistrate of the State, and Judge Ball, the chief judicial officer of the nation in the State, are completely one. And it is equally clear that the President is not authorized to do so. In the universal estimation of Kentuckians, the order is wholly illegal, as well as offensive in the extreme. We do not harbor a doubt that the President will withdraw the order, and that the confident indices are warranted in this respect but for the notable exception of some of our contemporaries in the State, who should perhaps have felt it their duty, under all the circumstances, to leave the matter to the State authorities, without any comment, for the present at least. It is not probable that the matter could be in a slier or more faithful hand. In the mean time we are assured that the order is practi-